

# GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

NOVEMBER 2003 NEWSLETTER

## November Musicale

7:30 PM Monday November 17, 2003

At Benny & Nancy Jay's House  
4305 Hyridge Drive  
343-8408

Please bring munchies

Kristin Burritt is planning the program, which will feature music from *Patience* and *The Gondoliers*. Performers will include Claire Vangelisti, Arthur DiBianca, Meredith Groeschel, June Julian, Anna Derdeyn, Brad Merrell, Randall McIntyre, Kristin Burritt, and perhaps others.

## Pirates Videos Now Available

These videos, produced and recorded by Nancy Jay, are excellent renditions of our June 2003 production. They make good Christmas presents and great watching. Only \$20 — call our office or visit our website to order:

472-4772 — [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

## Nominating Committee

This committee will present its slate of nominees for the Board of Directors at our annual Business Meeting on January 5, 2004; the names will be published in our January Newsletter. Larry Shepley is the committee chair, with members Enid Hallock and Bill Hatcher. Remember that according to our present Bylaws, passed last January, the Society members now elect a Board of Directors. Officers are then elected by that Board. Please send comments to Larry at 327-1511.

## Message From Your President

Brad Merrell

*For the merriest fellows are we, tra la,  
That ply on the emerald sea, tra la;  
With loving and laughing,  
And quipping and quaffing,  
We're happy as happy can be, tra la—*

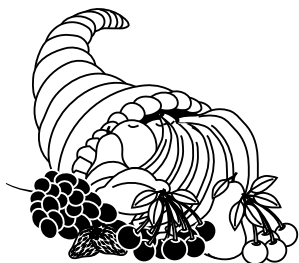
This year is just getting happier all the time. Our concert production of *Iolanthe* went very well. I hope you were able to come out to at least one of the performances. Our fairies and peers did a fabulous job, and the costuming and decoration put together by Kristin Burritt, Randall McIntyre and Amanda Hatfield added sparkle to the show. Of course, Andrew Hallock, Gloria Kim and Mel Witcher brought Sullivan's music to life.

One might think we would take some time to rest after a production like this. However, Kristin Burritt is hard at work again pulling together our November musicale. This time around, we are featuring ensemble selections from our upcoming productions of *The Gondoliers* and *Patience*. It will be held Monday, November 17 at the Home of Benny and Nancy Jay (4305 Hyridge Drive). We hope everyone will be able to come out to this event. Did I mention that it is free and open to the public...?

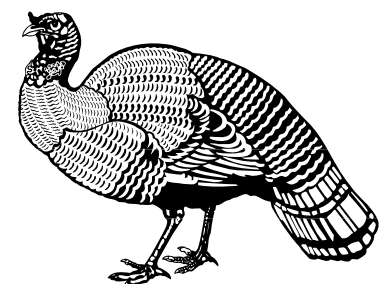
In addition to this, we are already at work planning next year's grand production of *The Gondoliers*. Janette Jones has signed on as our stage director. Her knowledge and enthusiasm about Gilbert and Sullivan, grand opera, and stagecraft will be enormous assets to our production. Also, recent B. Iden Payne award-winner Jeffrey Jones-Ragona will once again be our music director. With the two of them working in tandem, *The Gondoliers* will be a smashing success!

We are also working on plans to put on another concert production: *Patience*. This will be our fourth production in our new concert series. More details will follow....

Beyond these upcoming events, we will have other musicales throughout the year and maybe a few other surprises along the way. Be sure to come out and enjoy them all!



*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*



# *Iolanthe*

or, *The Peer and the Peri*

Presented by **The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin**

Please join us as we celebrate 27 years of bringing musical joy to Central Texas

**Premier Performance and Fundraiser, with dinner, 6:00 Sunday October 12, 2003:**

***la Madeleine***<sup>®</sup> (3418 N Lamar)  
BAKERY • CAFE • BISTRO

**Additional Performances: 7:30 pm, Monday October 13 and Friday October 17, 2003:  
Harris Bell Hall, Westminster Manor (4100 Jackson)**

This performance of *Iolanthe* is a concert version, prepared by **Brad Merrell, Kristin Burritt, and Arthur DiBianca.**

## Cast

The Lord Chancellor	<b>Arthur DiBianca</b>
Earl of Mountararat	<b>Randall McIntyre</b>
Earl Tolloller	<b>Brad Merrell</b>
Private Willis	<b>Harold Gilbert</b>
Strephon	<b>Derek Smootz</b>
Queen of the Fairies	<b>Mandy Summers</b>
Iolanthe	<b>Kristin Burritt</b>
Celia	<b>Meredith Groeschel</b>
Leila	<b>Kristina Horacek</b>
Fleta	<b>Amanda Hatfield</b>
Phyllis	<b>June Julian</b>
Chorus	<b>Meghan Hone, Enid Hallock, Mark Briody, Mark Long, Richard Summers</b>

## Crew

Director	<b>Brad Merrell</b>
Musical Director	<b>Andrew Hallock</b>
Producers	<b>Kristin Burritt Arthur DiBianca Brad Merrell</b>
Piano Accompaniment	<b>Gloria Kim</b>
Trumpet	<b>Mel Witcher</b>
Choreography	<b>Janette Jones</b>
Costuming	<b>Kristin Burritt Amanda Hatfield Janette Jones</b>
Artwork	<b>Randall McIntyre Amanda Hatfield</b>

Our concert version of *Iolanthe* was a great success. It sparkled with fairy glitter and legal logic. Enthusiastic audiences heard every word and laughed at all the jokes. It was a spirited production, with delightful semi-costumes, some action, and a little choreography. The peers all wore black pants and white shirts, decorated with metallic medallions, which gave them a lordly air. The fairies' wings were airily enchanting, and the fairy queen sported an especially splendid and regal set that seemed about to ascend into the atmosphere.

Brad Merrell, Kristin Burritt, and Arthur DiBianca did an excellent job condensing the opera. A few familiar songs were sacrificed, but the whole made a first class and cohesive show.

Several singers took on roles outside their normal voice range, but all performed well. I especially enjoyed Arthur DiBianca's rapid-fire Lord Chancellor.

A good time was had by all 41 people who attended the Sunday October 12 Gala performance with dinner at La Madeleine. Total attendance at Westminster Manor was 84 residents and 111 paying customers. In that more spacious setting the singers in their costumes showed to advantage.

Flushed with success, we look forward to a concert version of another G&S opera in the near future — perhaps *Patience*.

*Report by Reba Gillman*

### **Randalls/Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program**

Please register your Randall's Remarkable Card — Randalls will donate 1% of your bill to us (and up to two other charitable groups, if you wish). To register, visit the customer counter and use our name and number:

**Gilbert and Sullivan Society 10090**

This is an easy and cost-free (to you!) way to help us out.

### **G&S Mugs & Memorabilia**

Our mugs are tastefully designed with the G&S Logo. Only \$10. Call our office or write us for one of these handsome mugs (lead-free and microwave and dishwasher safe).

And don't forget our other delightful merchandise: Tee shirts, videos, librettos; all available at very reasonable prices. Call us at 472-4772.



# News of Friends and Members

by Reba Gillman

A delightful concert was presented on Sunday, October 26, 2003, by The Austin Singers' Circle, in the Maloney Room at St. Edward's University. Our friends **Holton Johnson**, **Christine Walsh**, and **Eric Peabody**, joined by **Oliver Worthington** and **Leslie Hochman**, sang "An Evening of Bel Canto Favorites." We look forward to their informal presentation next spring of *L'Elisir d'Amore* by Donizetti.

**Holton** may also soon be seen and heard as The Emperor in the Austin Lyric Opera production of Puccini's *Turandot* on November 21-24 at the Bass Concert Hall.

Congratulations to **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** on his doctoral recital at St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday November 1, 2003. It was magnificent! Jeffrey conducted a performance of the Requiem Mass in E-flat Major by eighteenth century composer Niccolo Jommelli. He led the Schola Cantorum and a small string orchestra, with soloists **Claire Vangelisti**, soprano; **Stephanie Prewitt**, alto; **Christopher LeCluyse**, tenor; and **Brett Barnes**, bass (remember Pooh Bah?). There were some familiar faces in the choir as well. A good audience, including several of our members, was present to enjoy this concert and the reception afterward.

On Sunday November 3, 2003, I attended the final performance of *Dracula: A Musical Nightmare* at the Dougherty Arts Center. A well done, and stylishly presented show, it featured among others our friends **Frank Delvy**, **Sam Johnson**, and **Jeanette Franz**, with **Diana (McAlpin) Huckaby** and **Chelsea Manaserri** in the chorus of vampires, **Karl Logue** at the piano, and **Jeffrey Jones-Ragona** listed as the Music Director. A number of Society members saw this production over the three weekends of performance and enjoyed it thoroughly.

Meanwhile far away in Cambridge, Massachusetts, our very own Rafe MacPhail participated in a Gilbert & Sullivan

Collectors' Roundtable at Harvard University. Topics included acquisitions, insurance, appraisals, cataloging and databases, audio and video technology, and de-accessioning. Frederic Woodbridge Wilson, curator of the Harvard Theatre Collection, took the group on a downtown Boston walking tour of the theater district where, among other sites, the first performance in America of *H.M.S. Pinafore* was staged.

Even farther away, our peripatetic former president **Larry Shepley** enjoyed his two week trip to Spain. He reports with enthusiasm that Barcelona remains the best city in the world and that the Texas Ex-Students' Association runs well-organized and fun trips.


### Contributors to Pirates 2003

Underwriters: **Chris Buggé, Larry Shepley**


Individual: **Reba & Len Gillman, David & Roslyn Gutman, Jean & Ed Smootz, Sue Ricket Caldwell, Chris Buggé, Virginia Ehmann, Dan Girardot, Allan & Barbara Longacre**

Corporate, Government, and Foundation: **Still Water Foundation of Austin, Priority Copy, Eyes of Texas Laser Center, Cedra Corporation, Westminster Manor, Cleve H. Tandy Foundation, Consolidated Insurance Agency, Genesis Presbyterian Church, HEB & HEB Central Market, Texas French Bread**

Thanks to our many volunteers and to **Enid Hallock**, who coordinated them.



*The Pirates of Penzance* was funded in part by the City of Austin under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission and supported by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.



## Membership Form

We encourage you to join our Society. If you are a member, please check your membership renewal date on the top of the mailing label. If expired or near expiration, your membership needs to be updated! To correct your address, renew your membership, or become a member, complete this form, and mail it to us at:

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin  
 P.O. Box 684542  
 Austin, Texas 78768-4542 Phone: 472-4772 (472-GSSA)

Name (as you want it to appear) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

What company do you work for? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check a membership category. Membership benefits include our Newsletter and 10% discount on tickets.

Individual: \$20 or more

Family/Group: \$30 or more

Youth (18 & under): \$10 or more

Senior (65 & over): \$10 or more

Donation only (no membership)

I'm interested in volunteering.

Please consider becoming a member at one of the following **Donor Levels**: **Patron** (\$50-\$99), **Grand Duke or Duchess** (\$100-\$249); **Major-General** (\$250-\$499); **Pooh-Bah** (\$500-\$999); **Pirate King** (\$1000-\$2499); **Savoyard** (\$2500 & up). Donor members receive additional benefits. Please call our office or visit our website ([www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)) for further information.

**The Gilbert & Sullivan  
Society of Austin**

Since 1976 , we have been spreading the joys of  
Gilbert & Sullivan through

**Annual Grand Productions**

**Pirates in School**

**Musicales**

**Musical Scholarships**

**Monthly Newsletters**

**Holiday Season Shows**

**G&S Office**

**4604 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756**

**P.O. Box 684542, Austin, TX 78768-4542**

**(512) 472-4772 [472-GSSA]**

**Board of Directors**

President	Brad Merrell	257-1742
Executive Vice-President	Bill Hatcher	892-3722
Secretary	Libby Weed	837-5441
Treasurer	Dave Wieckowski	477-5566
Historian	Kristin Burritt	528-8352
Directors	Chuck Antonie	733-1006
	Chris Buggé	834-7766
	Reba Gillman	327-2277
	Steve Schwartzman	453-2334
	Paula Tyler	459-4639

**Newsletter Editor**

Reba Gillman

**Layout**

Larry Shepley

Our web site: [www.gilbertsullivan.org](http://www.gilbertsullivan.org)

E-mail: [info@gilbertsullivan.org](mailto:info@gilbertsullivan.org)

The Society holds non-profit status under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.

**Looking Ahead**

**No Musicale in December**

**Annual Meeting and Musicale**

7:30 pm Monday January 5, 2004

At Paula Tyler's House

4400 Balcones Drive

459-4639

**Next Board Meeting**

7:00 pm Monday December 8, 2003

At Paula Tyler's House

Watch for our grand production of

**The  
Gondoliers**

June/July 2004

Janette Jones, Stage Director

Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Music Director

*The*  
**Gilbert  
SULLIVAN** *Society*  
OF AUSTIN  
PO Box 684542  
Austin TX 78768-4542  
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2054  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

